

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1, 8 and 16 are amended herein. Claims 4, 12 and 20 are cancelled herein. No new matter is added as a result of the claim amendments.

100110473-1  
Serial No.: 10/051,857

Examiner: Gauthier  
Art Unit: 2614

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 4, 12 and 20 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended Independent Claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable Claim 4. Applicants have also amended Independent Claim 8 to include the limitations of allowable Claim 12. In addition, Applicants have amended Independent Claim 16 to include the limitations of allowable Claim 20. As such, Applicants believe that Independent Claims 1, 8 and 16 and dependent Claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, and 21-23 are allowable and Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

103 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-14, 16-17 and 19-22

The instant Office Action states that Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-14, 16-17 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carr in view of Flinck et al. (“Flinck;” U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0018774 A1). In light of the Allowable Subject Matter indicated by the Examiner, Applicants have amended Independent Claims 1, 8 and 16 to include the limitations of the allowable claims. As such, the rejection is moot.

Conclusions

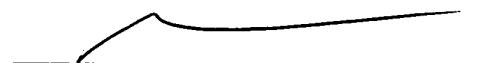
In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-23 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 12/1/06

  
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